



County of San Diego

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DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)
Chief Darrell Jobs, Chair/Dan Graham, Vice-Chair
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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

MISSION STATEMENT

"As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system."

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Members Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Cerny, Barbara – Third District
Dipretoro, Scott – American Red Cross
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies. Comm.
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Haworth, Mike – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Outlaw, Liz – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties
Pfohl, Chief Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association
Sarro, Lt. Sherri – Law Enforcement Agencies
Schroeder, David – Fourth District

County Staff Present

Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Marcy
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Members Absent

Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association

Guests Present

Byzak, Aaron – Office of Co. Supervisor Pam Slater-Price
Henry, Chad – American Medical Response
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Services Enterprise
Leister, Stayce – Pacific Ambulance
Ybarra, Marcos – Pacific Ambulance

Vacant

Binational EMCC
Emergency Physicians' Society
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
S.D. Co. Medical Society

I. INTRODUCTION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Graham, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Linda Broyles, R.N., Seconded by Kelly Forman, R.N., to approve the Minutes of June 28, 2007 as submitted. MOTION carried. One abstention: Bruce Fried, Fifth District.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Prehospital/Hospital

Discussion ensued on the “Destination of Acute Stroke Patient” draft policy. This draft policy originated from the Stroke Task Force which has been meeting for more than a year and one-half. All the San Diego County hospitals were surveyed and of all the hospitals that responded, stated they can meet criteria requirements. Hospital status will be posted on the County’s Quality Assurance Network so that emergency responders will know where it is preferable to transport patients with these conditions. Five San Diego County hospitals are currently certified as Stroke Centers by the Joint Commission.

County EMS conducted a survey from January through August, 2007 in which eighty patients were recognized by paramedics as acute stroke patients in the field. The American Heart Association examined their stroke registry of patients with strokes in San Diego County during a similar time period and found over 300 stroke patients, but their findings didn’t specify whether or not they were acute stroke patients.

MOTION made by Mary Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Seconded by Linda Broyles, R.N., to approve the Destination of Acute Stroke Patient draft policy.

V. PARAMEDIC INTERFACILITY TRANSPORTS

Dr. Haynes stated that County EMS had recently received a letter from John Berger, M.D., Medical Director, Balboa Ambulance Company requesting a review of the paramedic interfacility transfer guidelines. The issue had been brought up recently at the San Diego County Ambulance Association. This issue was brought up in 1999 at EMCC but at that time, there were no State guidelines. Some discussion also occurred as to whether or not this would be affected by an Exclusive Operating Agreement (EOA).

MOTION made by Linda Broyles, R.N., Seconded by Katy Green, R.N., to forward this agenda item to EMCC Prehospital/Hospital for further discussion. MOTION carried.

VI. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

The Second Annual Overcrowding Summit is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at Sharp Spectrum. Speakers will include Dr. Haynes, Roneet Lev, M.D., Emergency Medical Oversight Committee, James Packard, Chair, EMS Fund Subcommittee, Mike Williams, President, Abaris Group and Cesar Aristeiguieta, M.D., Director, State of California EMS. Major discussions will include the hospitals explaining what they’ve done as far as overcrowding in their particular emergency departments.

The new STEMI heart attack system appears to be working well. The second quarter’s worth

of data is just now being completed. During the first quarter, the data showed that 81% of the patients from the Stemi Receiving Centers (SRC's) had door-to-balloon times of less than 90 minutes. The program will also be reviewing the outcomes of death rates within 24 hours. Another Cardiology Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting is scheduled for next week where all the cardiologists will review all of this information.

The State Legislature has passed a bill sponsored by the California Association of Fire Fighters reviewing the EMT licensure issues including background checks and discipline etc. If there are funds available in the future it would create a central registry for EMT licensure; however, discipline would be the responsibility of the agency. If the Governor signs the bill, it would take effect immediately.

There has been discussion regarding advanced EMT skills. There appears to be more interest among rural providers than urban providers.

The County has a plan for dealing with heat emergencies when the heat index reaches a certain level. Numerous conference calls were recently held and a lot of notification to the public took place for opening up cooling shelters.

There is discussion around the country about using CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure). CPAC is used when someone has congestive heart failure or shortness of breath, and keeps the oxygen level higher in the blood.

The State would like to drop the combitube from the EMT optional scope of practice unless EMT's do the advanced 80 hour training. This was discussed two days ago at the State Emergency Medical Director's meeting and with the implementation of the State EMT II regulations, that would create this change. This issue is currently on hold at the State level.

VII. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, R.N.)

Ms. Metz distributed an HHSA Public Health Services Division organizational chart dated September 13, 2007 which had been requested at the previous EMCC meeting. Only one leadership position is vacant at this time, being the Deputy Public Health Officer. Interviews have been conducted for that position.

Chuck Matthews was recently appointed as the Public Health Administrator. Adrienne Yancey has been appointed as the Assistant Deputy Director for Programmatic Services and Debra McRae, Assistant Medical Services Administrator for Finance.

The EMS Chief position has been posted. Diane Royer, R.N., is a new Quality Assurance Specialist for EMS. Interviews continue for two other Quality Assurance Specialists. Ms. Royer will take on the base station and prehospital roles for EMS and Rebecca Pate, R.N., will take over agency responsibilities.

County EMS has also been awarded as recipient of the Center for Disease Control for TIIDE

(Terrorism Injuries, Information, Dissemination and Exchange) Partnership. San Diego was recognized as one of five model communities in the nation for the collaboration between Public Health, EMS and the emergency services community. Ms. Marcy emphasized how it wouldn't have been possible for San Diego to receive this award without the wonderful relationships with all the agencies, hospitals, providers and constituents throughout the entire County.

VIII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., Health Services Complex, Disaster Operations Center, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego. However, that meeting will not occur as that is the Statewide Disaster date this year. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary,
County EMS